

The Providence Pages

Volume 43, Issue 7

March 2012

A Letter from Marta...



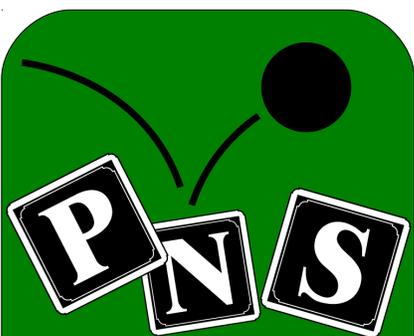
After 3 years on the board, one as a Class Rep and 2 years as Co-President, I'll be stepping down when the new board takes effect in April. It has been my great honor and joy to serve PNS – as a parent as well as a board member. PNS parents and Board Members are among the most devoted and passionate people I have ever met. There is no way to thank each board member and parent individually in a way that could do them justice. So I won't even try to do that here and instead will simply say to all of them thank you for years of dedication and service. I have loved every fun, insane, hectic moment! However, I would be remiss if I did not expressly thank last year's Co-President, Ann-Marie Ward and this year's Co-President, Kelly Volciak. I was fortunate enough to serve as Co-President with each of them for a year. They are remarkable women, mothers and friends. They have lived, breathed and dreamed PNS. They have each supported and inspired me. They made sharing this job fun and rewarding and I would never have agreed to do it without them. They truly exemplify all that I love most about PNS – selfless, dedicated and creative parents.

About this time four years ago when my son Max had just turned 2 and my daughter Josephine was only a few months old a friend asked me if I had started to consider preschools. Quite honestly the question surprised me. Preschool wasn't even a blip on my radar yet. In my mind Max was still a baby. How on Earth could he possibly be ready for school? I simply couldn't imagine dropping him off somewhere with strangers and just driving off. I told my friend that I might look into it but I didn't really think we were ready for preschool yet. Maybe it was the cold winter weather or maybe it was having an infant and a toddler demanding my constant attention, but the idea of preschool quickly began to grow on me. Within a few days I was researching schools. I figured if I found just the right school then maybe, just maybe, we would enroll him. I had very clear ideas about what values and characteristics I wanted for my child's first school experience. I wanted a school that focused on child-led learning and learning through play. I wanted a school that would allow me to be an active participant in their education. I wanted a school that was bright, cheerful and fun. I wanted a school that would make my kids yell, "Yay school!" when I told them to get ready in the morning. I didn't really believe that I would find all of those things but I did. I knew from the first moment I stepped into The Big Room that I had found some place special.

At first my husband thought that I was crazy when I picked PNS. He couldn't believe that I was willing to drive back and forth from our home in Fair Oaks (an hour round trip) twice a day just for preschool. He pointed out that there were many very good schools in our neighborhood but I was adamant. I knew that Max would run through the door each morning (I didn't know that he would cry when I came to bring him home, though!) to find his friends and climb on George. I knew that when Josie was old enough she would love the dress-up corner and the pretend play centers. I knew that the teachers were truly special – equal parts patience and intelligence. The only thing I didn't know was how we were going to wait the 6 long months for school to start!

I was right about PNS. We found a home and a family here. We made friendships that I know we will carry with us for the rest of our lives. Max and Josie learned so much at PNS. They have grown and flourished under the creative, thoughtful and dedicated care of Mrs. B, Miss Susan, Mrs. Millward and Miss Judy. They have hugged and snuggled Miss Mary, Miss Phyllis, Mrs. K, and Miss Kris. They have sung and danced with Miss Rachel. They have shaped play-doh with Mr. Richard. They have laughed and played with your children. Max marched off to Kindergarten this fall confident and excited. Everyday I see the things he learned at PNS guiding and shaping his school experiences. We are very hopeful that Josie will be returning for one more final year at PNS where everyone has been so patient and supportive of our family and I can't imagine not throwing on a PNS T-Shirt and heading off for a morning of co-oping. Thank you all for the last wonderful years. I love being a PNS parent and am looking forward to next year!

Marta



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL

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Mark your Calendar

Monday, March 12 -
General Membership
Meeting, 7:30 pm,
Board Meeting to follow

Tuesday, March 13 –
No School

Saturday, March 24 –
Spring Fundraiser:
Rocknoceros Concert &
Raffle

The *Providence Pages* is
published for Providence
Nursery School, Inc. Please
send submissions to
mrsd1977@gmail.com by
March 20th for April's issue.

**CDO
& 2s**

March is here—can warmer spring weather be far behind? Of course, thoughts of spring naturally lead to thoughts of blossoms, and boy are your little ones blossoming with amazing growth and development.

Not only have my young friends sprouted and lost some of their baby cheeks, there are now friendships forming in both classes and we're seeing more imaginary games and pretend play.

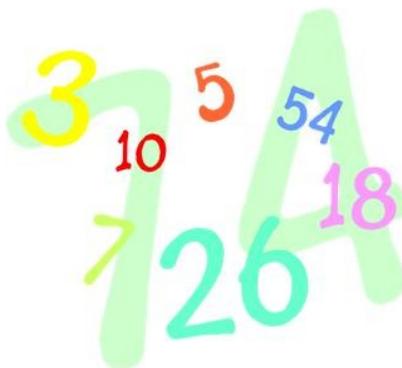
Rainbows will be the theme for the week of March 5th.

One of my favorite art projects is to use spray bottles to paint rainbows outside. We'll give this a try. We'll also make kite fold-overs and find out what it's like to color with a bundle of markers. This will be a great week for practicing our colors!



Our room will be Rocking the week of March 12th as talk about music and instruments. My daughter will visit us and play her Viola. We'd love to have some parent volunteers in to share their musical talents too.... We'll make drums, guitars and shakers at the art table this

week. Obie will share his favorite song with the children. Can you guess what it is?



The theme during the week of March 19th will be Numbers. We'll count forwards and backwards while lining up and playing jumping games. Our emphasis

this week will be on the numbers 1,2, and 3. We'll make Obie's favorite snack- trail mix with cheerios. Of

course the recipe will call for lots of counting! This week we'll also have a numbered ring toss and play hopscotch.

Safety will be the theme for the last week of March. We'll practice looking both ways before crossing the street. We'll play red light green light and make our own street signs. We'll also talk about what is safe to eat and how to be safe around pets.



In the big room the students play at different centers. But we're not just playing- we're working on a number of preschool skills. At the play dough table and sensory table we're working on hand strengthening and fine motor skills. Hopping, balancing and climbing are happening in the gross motor area. In all of the centers, we are practicing and expanding our social language. We're working on asking our friends for things, commenting on what our friends are doing (Wow I like your tower! or That's a long train you made), asking our friends questions (Do you like it? Want to see what I made? Can I help you?) and giving compliments (Great Princess dress). Miss Phyllis, Miss Mary and I help the children who tend to stay in one area to try new things. We're also working with the students who tend to pop around from one thing to another, on sticking with an activity for an extended period of time. What is your child doing in the big room? Please ask me at pick up or via email- I'd love to talk about it.

Mrs. B

3s

For those of us who love snow (including my big, white dog) this winter has been disappointing. But you get what you get and you don't get upset!! So we'll look forward to March. It's the month with the beginning of Spring in it. That means things start to grow again and I get to garden! It also means we can use the playground more and there's more daylight and that makes everyone happy.

We'll start off the month with more Transportation, especially things that move on Water and in the Air. Classic paper airplanes are always fun to make and we'll watch submarines dive and surface right before our eyes!

Next is Dental Health Week. Everybody has teeth and we need to keep them strong and healthy, so we will talk about how to do that. We'll also use tooth brushes in unintended ways at the art table, play the Tooth Fairy Game and go on a field trip to a dentist's office on March 9th.

Green makes us think about St. Patrick's Day, so the following week we'll talk about shamrocks and leprechauns – maybe they'll come to visit! We'll check out color mixing with blue and yellow to see what shades of green we can produce.

Then we will explore more colors as we talk about a favorite subject: Rainbows. We'll paint them, draw them, read about them and try to make them with a prism if the sun cooperates.

Our second Parent Brunch is scheduled for March 7th. Join us for an informal education session and bring any questions or comments you may have.

Show and Tell is so popular we have started a second round. Everyone is working hard at raising hands and waiting for a turn to ask a question.

I'd just like to stick in a little acknowledgment of what a great group of kids we have. They are friendly and helpful, entertaining and full of good ideas. Thanks for sharing them with me!



Miss Susan

4s

The month of March starts with a unit on Nursery Rhymes. We will practice reciting many of them and also be listening for those rhyming words.

March 6th -10th is a study of Dr. Seuss, The Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham, One Fish, Two Fish and these will form our unit of study. We will also cook up some green eggs and ham as well as making paper bookmarks.

Next is "Green" week March 13th -16th. During this week, those naughty little Leprechauns will make a visit to Providence and stir up some type of trouble. Shamrocks and lots of Treasures will be in school this week.



We will close the month talking about our weather. Let's hope for beautiful warmer sunny days so that we may get to enjoy the playground again.

Judy

3/4s

March...the month of indecision...in like a lion and out like a lamb? Or vice versa? I personally think it's time for warm breezes and sunny, blue skies. I just want to be outside with the kids...no more "indoor playtime!"

Dr. Seuss will be our honorary guest during the week of March 5th. We will honor his memory by exploring several of his books...including my favorite, Green Eggs and Ham. Of course, we'll do some cooking on that day! (It never gets old!) We'll read several other Seuss treasures...and even make our own special bookmarks.

St. Patrick's Day and the color green will be our emphasis during the week of the 12th. We'll have fun with those elusive Leprechauns and will look for their mysterious pot of gold. You never know what might happen near St. Pat's Day at PNS!!! But you can count on it being FUN! And please don't forget that there is no school on Tuesday, 3/13...all the teachers and aides will be at the spring PACT Conference learning lots of neat educational stuff.

March 19th is the week where you will find us "studying" weather. Colorful experiments and discussions of "Why does it snow/rain/etc?" will take



place during our circletimes. We'll all learn the colors of the rainbow in order (a great sequencing skill) and have lots of fun drawing them in different media. It's a very colorful week, for sure!

Then Spring will officially be sprung in our classroom during the week of March 26th. It will be a real "down and dirty" time at school, so please leave the new springtime clothes at home...we'll dig, and plant, and spend extra time outside enjoying the fresh air! I can't wait for this week!

Don't forget the General Membership Meeting that will be held on Monday, March 12th. Please try to attend. The election of officers for next year's PNS Board will be held. Time at the meeting will be time well spent!

The Fours' Gang is moving right along with their alphabet fun. The kids' listening skills are improving by leaps and bounds! They are all starting to really hear those initial sounds and think of words that start with our special letter. Letters this month will be R (week of the 5th), G (week of the 12th), W(week of the 19th), and O (week of the 26th).

It's going to be a marvelous March!

Jane

Mandatory Membership Meeting

Our annual Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, March 12th at 7:30 in the Big Room. This is a mandatory meeting. One member of each current PNS families must be in attendance in order to vote for the 2012-2013 Executive Board, listed below. New members of the board are listed in bold. The monthly board meeting will follow, and all are welcome to stay.

2012-2013 Executive Board

President – Kelly Volciak
 VP Admin – **Jennifer Mack**
 VP Forms – **Susanne Fitch**
 VP Enrollment – **Kyle Durbin**
 Secretary – **Jessica Guillot**
 Treasurer – Sherry Steeley
 Asstiant Treasurer – **Laura Braceland**
 Fundraising Co-Charirs – Liz Claeys and **Alexandra Erickson**



Wonderful Wednesdays!

Kaydee Puppets will perform a double feature of Little Red Hen's Wacky Week and Bunny Tales at 11:30am on Wednesday, March 21st in the Fellowship Hall.

After School Enrichment for Spring is here!

Heart & Soul Yoga will be offering Yoga to 3's, 3/4's and 4's students on Wednesdays from March 21st –May 16th from 1:45-2:30pm. Cost for this 8 week class is \$68.00. Space is limited so registration will begin on Wednesday, March 7th on a first come first serve basis.



Parent Education

March 21st 2012 @ 7:00-8:00 pm

Kindergarten is coming! Are you Excited? Anxious? Happy? Nervous? Sad? Whatever your emotion, join Maureen Bush, a PNS alumni parent and Fairfax County Public School teacher, on Monday, March 21st at 7:00-8:00 PM for an interactive conversation about this new phase of your child's life. During Maureen's 19 year

career in education, she has been a classroom teacher at various grade levels including Kindergarten and first grade. She has taught in both Special and General Education classrooms and is currently working as an ESOL teacher with students in grades K-6.



She wants your questions about kindergarten! Please send to presenter Maureen, Maureen.Bush@fcps.edu, your questions about the kindergarten experience. Any and all questions are welcome!

Volunteer Opportunities

- Provide food for your class Spring Brunch (1/2 hour),
- Sub for a half hour for a co-oping parent during their class Spring Brunch (1/2 hour),

- Volunteer a service to be raffled at the upcoming Spring Fundraiser (1 hour),
- Help organize and put together the class baskets for the Fundraising Raffle (1 hour),
- Help the Fundraising Committee with the upcoming Rocknoceros Concert/Raffle,
- Attend the Board Meeting on March 12th (1 hour),
- Sub for Wednesday Lunch Bunch on March 7th (1 hour),



Contact Ryan Bianchetti, VP-Admin at rdbianchetti@gmail.com if you have any questions. Thanks!

VCPC Awards!

There is still time to nominate a PNS parent for this year's VCPC awards. If you know someone whose commitment to our school over the past year has been superior, please give them a chance to be recognized. Nomination forms are available on the sign-in tables at school or you can email etuszynska@gmail.com. The winner will be announced at the March board meeting.

Need A Sub?

If you are co-oping and wake up sick (or your child is sick or your car won't start etc.) it is your responsibility to find someone to co-op in your place. If you can't find someone to co-op in your place, we may need to cancel class for the day. You must:

1. Call or e-mail other parents in your class and try to swap co-op days with one of them- **DO THIS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY THE NIGHT BEFORE AT THE FIRST SIGN OF ILLNESS.**
2. If you've tried everyone in your class and can't find a sub- call our sub coordinator, Ryan Bianchetti, before 8 AM and she will try to arrange a sub for you. You may only call the sub coordinator in an emergency and only once during the entire school year, so please use this option as a last resort.

Reminder

There is no school on **Tuesday, March 13th** due to PACT conference.



Fundraising

Back By Popular Demand – Rocknoceros!

Please join us for our annual spring fundraiser on Saturday, March 24th at 10:30 a.m. In conjunction with the Rocknoceros concert, we will be holding a small raffle. Admission tickets will be \$10 apiece in advance, or \$12 at the door. Infants under 1 are free, but all other adults and kids will need a ticket. If you buy 4 tickets, you will get the fifth free - families are welcome to team up for this deal. Checks or cash may be left in the Fundraising Mailbox, made out to "Providence Nursery School" anytime before the 24th. You will not need a paper ticket - we will have a list of names at the door. Raffle tickets may also be purchased in advance for \$1 apiece or \$10 for a dozen. You do not need to be present to win, but let us know if you will not be there so we can watch your tickets for you. Raffle tickets will also be available at the event, and a list of prizes will be advertised the week before.



Please let us know if you have any suggestions for raffle items or businesses that we could solicit. Parent donations are always welcome - items, gift certificates, tickets to events, services (babysitting, cake decorating, crafts, hand-made jewelry). Classes or groups of parents are encouraged (not required!) to put together a themed basket with inexpensive items. In the past, we have had cooking baskets, kid craft supplies, home movie night stuff, beauty care items for moms, etc. All donations are very much appreciated, and one hundred percent of the money raised by the raffle goes to the school.

Babies!

Congratulations to Alexandra Hume and Chris DiTeresi on the birth of their second son, Callum James, on January 31st. Big brother Silas is in 2's and CDO.

Congratulations to the Kelley and David Raich who welcomed a daughter, Leighton Nicol, to their family on

February 8. Big Brother, Levi is in the 2s.

Congratulations to Jennifer and Kris Mack on the birth of their son, Dane Kristopher, on February 22nd. Big sister Riley is in the 3s.

Easter Eggstravaganza!

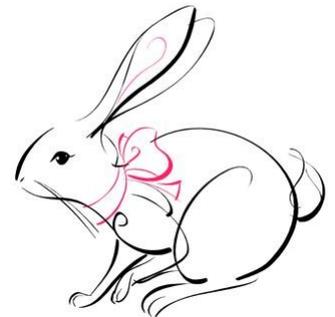
Providence Presbyterian Church invites your family and friends to attend our *Annual EGGSTRAVAGANZA!*

Saturday, March 31

10 am-noon

Rain or Shine

All are welcome to enjoy free food, egg hunts, pretzel making, moon bounce, games and crafts!



Thank You!

As always there are many thank yous to go around! Here are just a few:

- Thank you to **Thao Hoang** for taking such good care of our animals throughout the year and also for making 14 papier-mâché eggs for the 3s Dinosaur Days.
- Thank you to everyone who helped prep for the art show: **Thao Hoang, Simonette delaTorre, Dawn Ahrens & Jennifer Brooks.**
- Thank you to **Michelle Weikert** for subbing for lunch bunch in February.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with February's clean-up & maintenance day: **Jenni Buechler, C.W. Etzler, Mark Rudnicki, Liz Assante, Victor Crutchfield, Fatema Kanchan, Sam Crowley, Rick Brown, Jorge Rosand, and Josh Martin.**
- Thank you to **Lauren Etzler** for filling in as Secretary while **Kelley Raich** is on maternity leave.
- Thank you to our **PNS teachers** for another fabulous VIP Day! Our students and their Very Important People shared a fun and educational morning.

March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	<p style="margin: 0;">12 General Membership Meeting 7:30pm Board Meeting to follow</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">13 NO SCHOOL PACT Conference</p>	14	15	16	<p style="margin: 0;">17 St. Patrick's Day</p> 
18	19	20	<p style="margin: 0;">21 Enrichment: KayDee Puppets 11:30am</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Parent Ed: Kindergarten Readiness 7:00-8:00pm</p>	22	23	<p style="margin: 0;">24 Spring Fundraiser: RocknoceroS Concert and Raffle 10:30am</p>
25	26	27	28	29	30	<p style="margin: 0;">31 Easter Eggstravaganza 10am-noon</p>



RocknoceroS